Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KABUL 04717 120812Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01
XMB-02 EB-08 /065 W
----------030218 121001Z /11
R 120409Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8490

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 4717

FOR NEA SAUNDERS: STATE PASS TO AID/AA/NE WHEELER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, AF, US
SUBJECT: FUTURE OF USAID PROGRAMS IN AFGHANISTAN: NEXT STEPS

REF: STATE 136820

1. WITH THE COMPLETION OF OUR INITIAL CALLS ON AFGHAN CABINET MEMBERS INVOLVED WITH USAID PROJECTS, WE DO NOT YET HAVE A "FULL UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT DRA EXPECTATIONS ARE WITH RESPECT TO OUR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS."

2. BASED ON OUR MEETINGS TO DATE, THE MASSIVE REPLACEMENT OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS DOWN TO THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT LEVEL, AND OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH AFGHANS AND OTHER AID DONORS, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT IS HAVING DIFFICULTY GETTING ITS ACT TOGETHER. THIS HAS MADE IT MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO ASSESS THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE GENERALLY VAGUE AND INDEFINITE RESPONSE FROM OUR MEETINGS WITH THE VARIOUS MINISTERS IS DUE TO THEIR UNPREPAREDNESS, ON THE ONE HAND, OR THEIR LACK OF INTEREST IN OUR AID PROGRAMS, ON THE OTHER. THE ONLY CLEAR POSITIVE RESPONSE WE HAVE HAD TO DATE CONCERNS OUR ACTIVITIES IN THE HELMAND VALLEY--AND SPECIFICALLY, THE SEVEN MILLION DOLLAR CONSTRUCTION PURCHASE FOR HCC. AND WHILE IT APPEARS THAT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KABUL 04717 120812Z

AT LEAST FOR THE PRESENT, THE DRA WANTS OUR AID, IT IS NOT AT ALL CLEAR TO WHAT EXTENT THEY WANT THE U.S. INVOLVED IN A SUBSTANTIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH THEM IN TRYING TO MEET BASIC HUMAN NEEDS.

3. BASED ON OUR DISCUSSIONS TO DATE, WE CAN ENVISAGE VARIATIONS ON THREE POSSIBLE SCENARIOS. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE NEW GOVERN-MENT WILL LET OUR AID PROGRAMS CONTINUE ALONG THE GENERAL

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

PATH WORKED OUT WITH THRE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT, AND WE HAVE AT LEAST SOME INDICATIONS FROM DRA OFFICIALS TO SUPPORT THIS VIEW. (SEE SEPTELS ON OUR MEETING WITH MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND OUR INITIAL WORKING LEVEL MEETING WITH MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION.) BUT WE CAN ALSO ENVISAGE VARIENTS OF TWO OTHER SCENARIOS WHICH APPEAR EQUALLY LIKELY TO US AT THE PRESENT TIME. THESE ARE BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT WANTS THE BENEFITS OUR CONTINUED AID PRESENCE PROVIDES, INTERNATIONALLY TO BOLSTER THEIR NON-ALIGNED POSTURE AND DOMESTICALLY TO DIFFUSE CONCERNS THAT THEY ARE A SOVIET SATELLITE. IT ALSO ASSUMES THEY WILL WANT TO PAY THE MINIMAL PRICE IN TERMS OF U.S. PHYSICAL PRESENCE AND INVOLVEMENT IN SUBSTANTIVE POLICY MATTERS. IN THE SECOND SCENARIO, THE DRA WILL TRY HARD TO MAXIMIZE OUR CAPITAL ASSISTANCE CONTRIBUTIONS WHILE THEY SIMULTANEOUSLY SEEK TO MINIMIZE OUR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE INVOLVEMENT, PARTICULARLY IN THOSE AREAS THAT DEAL WITH SUBSTANTIVE POLICY ISSUES. THE THIRD SCENARIO IS A VARIANT OF THE SECOND, EXCEPT THAT THE DRA WOULD TRY TO LIMIT OUR PHYSICAL INVOLVEMENT TO THE HELMAND VALLEY.

4. WE BELIEVE TWO AID PROJECTS WILL BE CRITICAL BELLWETHERS OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S INTENTIONS: THE INTEGRATED WHEAT PROJECT AND THE EXPANSION OF THE BASIC HEALTH SERVICES PROJECT. THE FORMER PROJECT IS NOT IDEOLOGICALLY SENSITIVE IN THAT IT FOCUSES ON APPLIED WHEAT RESEARCH AND CONCERNS A TECHNOLOGICAL AREA IN WHICH U.S. LEADERSHIP IS UNEXCELLED. BUT ITS PROPOSED LOCATION NORTH OF THE HINDU KUSH EARLIER OPPOSED BY THE RUSSIANS SHOULD CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KABUL 04717 120812Z

BE A LITMUS TEST OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S WILLINGNESS TO LET US WORK THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. THE LATTER HEALTH PROJECT IS MORE FUNDAMENTAL TO OUR AID MANDATE. WE ARE THE PREEMINENT AID DONOR TO BASIC HEALTH SERVICES IN AFGHANISTAN, AND HAVE DEVELOPED AN INNOVATIVE BASIC HEALTH CARE DELIVERY SYSTEM FOR RURAL AFGHANISTAN THAT HAS BEEN LAUDED BY THE WORLD BANK, U.N., AND OTHERS. IT ALSO DIRECTLY ADDRESSES THE HEALTH PRIORITIES CITED BY THE NEW GOVERNMENT. OUT OF HAND REJECTION OF OUR AID IN THIS SECTOR WOULD MAKE IT UNLIKELY THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD LET US BECOME INVOLVED IN OTHER NATIONAL PROGRAMS DIRECTED AT MEETING BASIC HUMAN NEEDS.

5. WHILE IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO DO MORE THAN SPECULATE, WE COULD END UP WITH A PORTFOLIO OF PROJECTS LIMITED ESSENTIALLY TO CAPITAL PROJECTS WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CONFINED TO THE HELMAND VALLEY. THE POLICY ISSUE IMPLIED BY THESE SCENARIOS IS WHETHER SUCH A LIMITED AID ROLE WOULD REALLY ADDRESS OUR AID MANDATE IN ANY SIGNIFICANT WAY.

6. WE PLAN IN THE COMING DAYS TO FOLLOW-UP ON OUR INITIAL MINISTERIAL MEETINGS WITH LOWER LEVEL MEETINGS AT THE DEPUTY MINISTER AND PRESIDENTIAL LEVELS. WE INTEND TO FURTHER EXPLORE

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

THE GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS WITH RESPECT TO ONGOING AID PROJECTS
AND THOSE AID PROJECTS IN THE ADVANCE PLANNING STAGE WITH THE
PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT. WE SHALL KEEP YOU INFORMED AS THESE MEETINGS
TAKE PLACE.
ELIOT

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KABUL04717
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780244-1027
Format: TEL
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780671/aaaacirx.tel
Line Count: 121
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4ace568b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 136820
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2397144
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FUTURE OF USAID PROGRAMS IN AFGHANISTAN: NEXT STEPS
TAGS: EAID, AF, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4ace568b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014